of people were stampeded to death on Khodynka Field in Moscow. I was a youngster of ten at that time, but I remember angry talk blaming the new Tsar for the catastrophe.

The tide of opposition was rising. A deputation of moderately liberal gentry respectfully asked Nicholas that the voice of the people be heard henceforth by the throne, only to be rudely rebuked for such "senseless dreams." "Let everyone know that I shall defend the principle of absolutism as strictly as did my beloved father," the young Tsar declared.

The liberal voices became louder. Rumors circulated about strikes, political demonstrations, underground organizations, but I did not know about these organizations. Later I learned that groups of radical intellectuals, mainly college students, had established contacts with workers and helped them to organize strikes by providing slogans and leaflets. There were two centers of opposition at that time: moderately liberal opposition in the *zemstvos*—local governmental bodies dominated by the gentry—and the radical opposition, leaning toward socialism, among young people, chiefly in the universities.

Before the turn of the century, two revolutionary parties emerged: the Marxist Social Democratic party (S-D), shaped on the German pattern, and the Socialist Revolutionary party (S-R), which called for union of workers, peasants, and intellectuals, and promised to resume the terroristic battle against the enemies of the people. Both were small underground organizations but had sympathizers in the broad circles of workers and intellectuals.

At that time, the difference between the liberals and revolutionaries seemed to me to be one of degree, and persons more mature than I shared in this concept. The radicals appeared to be hard-boiled liberals, while the liberals were half-baked radicals.

My political recollections of the next few years—my last years in high school—are more precise. There was great excitement after the first terrorist acts of the Socialist Revolutionary party. Early in 1901, the Minister of Public Instruction was killed by a terrorist for having threatened to conscript rioting students into military service. Next, the Minister of the Interior was assassinated for persecuting national minorities and mistreating peasants and political prisoners. Both assassinations were openly applauded by the public, especially in university circles. Postcards with the pictures of the terrorists hung in students' rooms along with those of Leo Tolstoy and Maxim Gorky.

On the night of February 5, 1904, Japanese submarines and torpedo boats attacked Russian men-of-war in the harbor of Port